

Senate Bill 159

By: Senators Gooch of the 51st, Miller of the 49th, Burke of the 11th, Ginn of the 47th and
Payne of the 54th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 elementary and secondary education, so as to revise a provision relating to student
3 transportation; to authorize local boards of education to use vehicles other than school buses
4 for the transport of students to and from school related activities; to provide for minimum
5 requirements; to provide for insurance; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting
6 laws; and for other purposes.

7 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

8 **SECTION 1.**

9 Chapter 2 of Title 20 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to elementary and
10 secondary education, is amended in Code Section 20-2-188, relating to student
11 transportation, by revising subsection (e) as follows:

12 "(e) The State Board of Education shall establish and require adherence to minimum
13 specifications for vehicles used or contracted to be used by local units of administration for
14 transporting students, including a motor vehicle with a capacity of eight persons or less
15 operated and marked for the transportation of school children to and from school activities,
16 taking into account the factors and circumstances set forth in subsection (a) of this Code

section, and shall establish and require adherence to minimum standards and requirements respecting maintenance, repair, inspection, and use of such vehicles and minimum qualifications for the drivers of such vehicles; provided, however, that such transportation shall not be authorized to be provided by a ride share network service or transportation referral service, as such terms are defined in Code Section 40-1-190. The state board shall require, monitor, and fund a program of safety instruction in the practices of safe riding and emergency bus evacuation drills for both school bus drivers and students riding school buses."

SECTION 2.

Said chapter is further amended in Part 1 of Article 22, relating to the powers of state and local school officials with respect to school buses, by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

"20-2-1076.

(a) Local boards of education may authorize the use of vehicles other than school buses for the transport of students to and from school related activities, where appropriate. Such vehicles may include motor vehicles with a capacity of eight persons or less operated and marked for the transportation of school children to and from school activities; provided, however, that such transportation shall not be authorized to be provided by a ride share network service or transportation referral service, as such terms are defined in Code Section 40-1-190.

(b) Local boards shall comply with all requirements established by the State Board of Education pursuant to Code Section 20-2-188, including minimum standards and requirements for maintenance, repair, inspection, and use of such vehicles and minimum qualifications for the drivers of such vehicles. Local boards may establish requirements in addition to such minimum state requirements, in the discretion of the local board.

42 (c) Local boards are authorized and required to cause policies of insurance to be issued
43 insuring the students being transported to and from school related activities against bodily
44 injury or death at any time resulting from an accident or collision in which such vehicles
45 are involved. The amount of such insurance shall be within the discretion of each local
46 board of education."

47 **SECTION 3.**

48 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.